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## NEWS Release

June 29, 2011

### Goodrich Street at Augusta Canal Closed

AUGUSTA, GA. Vehicle access to Goodrich Street along the Augusta Canal from Eve Street to the Augusta Raw Water Pumping Station will close effective 9:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 29, for an indefinite period of time Augusta area officials announced today.

In a prepared statement, Dayton Sherrouse, Executive Director of the Augusta Canal Authority, stated that the action was being taken after consultation with Sheriff Ronnie Strength, Augusta Administrator Fred Russell, Augusta Utilities Director Tom Wiedmeier and Recreation Director Tom Beck.

"We are taking this step to improve public safety and protect public resources," said Sheriff Strength. Sheriff Strength noted that his deputies and staff with the Utilities Department and Canal Authority have encountered increased incidents of illegal activity and vandalism along the area between the Lake Olmstead Bulkhead Bridge and the aqueduct/Raes Creek spillway.

Summer temperatures have brought more people out to enjoy the canal, said Sherrouse. "Unfortunately, with that increase has come an element that is determined to spoil the experience and safe environment for everyone else." He further noted that the majority of the problems have come from vehicles coming into the area and is hopeful that this ban will eliminate the public safety conflict between the vehicles and recreational users of the area. He also noted an increase in other dangerous behaviors such as jumping off bridges and docks and throwing objects into the water.

During the closure period, officials will evaluate options for public access and recreational use. In the mean time, only Utilities Department, Canal Authority, law enforcement and other authorized motor vehicles will be permitted on Goodrich Street. Pedestrian and bicycle access will still be allowed and is encouraged.

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